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CLAIMS

1. A process for the production of  $\alpha$ -interferon comprising the steps:

- 5 i) inducing of human leukocytes by means of a virus,  
ii) treating the leukocytes with an enhancing agent selected from
- a) xanthine, pyrimidinol, pyrimidinone, theophylline, theobromine, enprophylline, hypoxanthine, 8-  
10 phenyltheophylline, 2-amino-5-bromo-6-methylpyrimidinol, 2-amino-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinol and thymine;  
b) an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of non-aromatic ketones, aliphatic or cyclic amides, alkylated aliphatic or cyclic urea derivatives and  
15 aliphatic or cyclic sulfoxides;  
or a combination of the compounds from a) with an organic solvent from b).

2. A process according to claim 1, characterized in  
20 that the leukocytes are monocytes.

Sub A 1  
25 3. A process according to any one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the enhancing agent is added at the same time or up to 4 hours after the virus induction.

4. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 3, characterized in that the virus is Sendai virus.

30 5. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 4, characterized in that the enhancing agent is theophylline.

6. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 4, characterized in that the enhancing agent is 2-amino-5-  
35 bromo-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinol.

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Sub A1

7. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 4, characterized in that the enhancing agent is thymine.
- 5 8. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the organic solvent is any of acetone, 2-butanone, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, dimethylsulfoxide, N-ethyl-2-pyrrolidinone, 4-methyl-2-pentanone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, 2-pyrrolidinone,
- 10 tetramethylene sulfoxide and N,N-dimethylacetamide.

9. A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the solvent is N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone.

add A2

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